(SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) The Government remains committed to restore normalcy and create conditions conducive to the revival of the democratic process and holding of elections in Jammu & Kashmir at the earliest. Towards, this end, the situation is being reviewed on a regular basis with the State Government and the Governor. However, it is not possible to indicate any specific time frame for holding of elections, at this juncture, and, as such, the question of any specific decision in the matter does not arise.

सजा पाने से बचने वाले बलात्कारी

301. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कानून में व्याप्त खामियों के कारण अधिकांश बलात्कारी सजा पाने से बच जाते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो विद्यमान कानून में व्याप्त खामियों का पता लगाने हेतु क्या सरकार ने इस कानून की आलोचनात्मक पुनरीक्षा की है;

(ग) विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान न्यायालयों में लंबित बलात्कार के मामलों की राज्य-वार संख्या कितनी-कितनी है;

(घ) क्या इन मामलों को निपटाने हेतु विशेष अदालतों का गठन करने तथा इन अदालतों में केवल महिला न्यायाधीशों को नियुक्त करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट): (क) और (ख) सरकार के पास ऐसी कोई सूचना नहीं है कि अधिकांश बलात्कारी, कानून की खामियों के कारण सजा पाने से बच जाते हैं। वर्तमान कानूनी प्रावधान काफी कठोर प्रतीत होते हैं तो भी सरकार इनमें सुधार के लिए दिए गए सुझावों के प्रति उदासीन नहीं रहेगी।

(ग) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Reorganization of North Eastern Council

302. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Eastern Council is being reorganized;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals;

(c) whether the scheme of a regional counter insurgency force is in the work;

(d) whether the North Eastern Council will have a permanent Chairman; and

(e) what are the modalities for his appointment.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a), (b), (d) and (e) The various issues involved are under examination;

(c) There is no scheme of regional counter insurgency force in operation?

Lifting of restricted area permit from North East

303. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government made the announcement that the Restricted Area permit regulation would be lifted from the North East;

(b) whether notification was issued in this regard;

(c) whether Government also called on Bangladesh to issue identity cards to her nationals living in the border to enable them to enter the border for border trade; and

(d) whether Government have received any response from Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. During his recent visit to the N.E. States, Home Minister gave an assurance to the Chief Ministers of the N.E. States that a belt of 20 KMs along the International Border in N.E. Region will only be

declared as Protected Areas and the rest of the area will be declared open. However, certain areas even in the 'open area' which are considered sensitive will remain in the restricted category.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Incident at Kupwara in Kashmir

304. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 21 persons lost their lives including three policemen in a serious incident at Kupwara in Kashmir recently; and

(b) whether the incident has added force to the talking point of the Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto both in the world economic forum at Davos and the Human Rights Commission in Geneva?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) As per available information, on 27.01.1994, an Army convoy passing through Kupwara town was attacked by militants. In the ensuing exchange of fire, 21 persons including three State Police Personnel, were killed and 15 others injured. The State Government has announced a Magisterial Inquiry into the incident besides the payment of ex-gratia relief to the victims. The Inquiry is in progress.

(b) Such incidents have been used by Pakistan in their propaganda campaign against India. Pakistan Foreign Office issued a Statement on the Kupwara incident on 30.01.1994, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan mentioned it in her statement in the 50th Session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva on 01.02.1994.

Blasts in various towns of Jammu and Kashmir

305. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several blasts have rocked various towns in Jammu and Kashmir of late.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the loss of life; and

(c) what positive steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to wipe out the incidents of blasts and to nab the culprits involved in such blasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) As per available information, a total of 21 blasts have occured in Jammu and Kashmir during this year so far. In these blasts, four civilians and four militants were killed; while 27 civilians and two security forces personnel were injured. Besides, two shops, two bridges and some water supply lines were also damaged.

(c) Sustained pressure is being maintained on the militants within the State and vigil has been further intensified and stepped up on the LOC and the border to prevent infiltration/ exfiltration of terrorists.

News-item regarding Medical Camps in J & K

306. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Indian Express of 12th January, 1994, under the caption "The Army's bloodless coup in Doda", the medical camps organised by the Army's northern command Kishtwar were successful in bringing peace to hundreds of militancy-torn villages of the area besides benefits to the inhabitants by way of medical treatment and propagation of public health schemes;